

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT APPLICATION

5 Entitled : A TILTABLY RETRACTABLE THRUSTER

Inventors :

Assignee :

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

15 The present invention relates to a retractable thruster for a surface or submersible vessel, the thruster comprising a propulsion assembly comprising a rigid structure secured to a cylindrical turbine, said rigid structure containing or being suitable for containing a motor, said motor being suitable for
20 rotating at least one propeller inside said turbine via at least one rotary shaft between said motor and said propeller, and preferably further comprising a plate for closing the hull placed beneath said turbine and secured thereto, said propulsion assembly being displaceable by
25 displacement means between a retracted position in which it is at rest inside the hull and a deployed position for providing propulsion in which the propeller is immersed beneath the hull. According to the present invention,
30 said displacement means enable said propulsion assembly to be moved between said retracted and deployed positions by said propulsion assembly performing uniform circular movement about an axis of rotation situated substantially at the level of said hull or beneath said hull.